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Biog

JONES

PIONEERING IN KOREA

WITH

GEORGE HEBER JONES

MISSIONARY RESEARCH
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1867-
1919

THE ROOF OF AN OLD KOREAN GATE

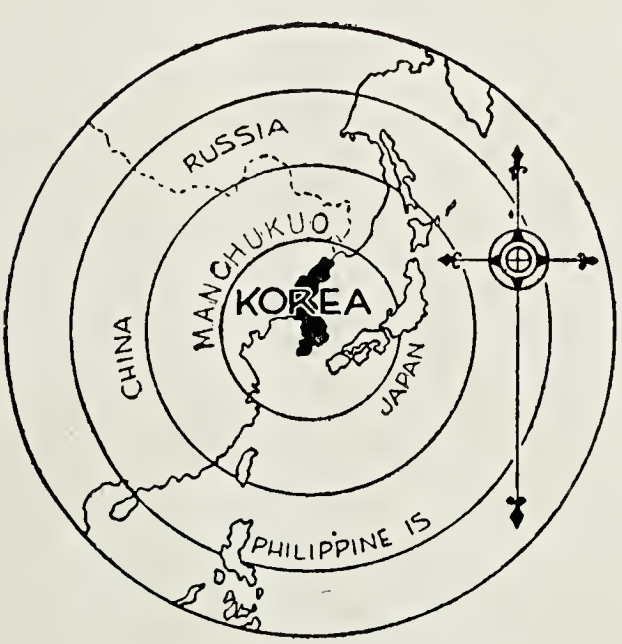
GEORGE HEBER JONES

ONE OF THE

PIONEER MISSIONARIES

TO KOREA

1867 1919



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PIONEERING IN OLD KOREA
WITH
GEORGE HEBER JONES

For centuries Korea chose to remain aloof from the rest of the world. By royal decree, the ocean side of all mountains was stripped of grass and trees to make the appearance of the country as uninviting as possible to passing ocean travellers.

On the other side of these mountains lived twelve million isolated people. They were not aware of the tremendous forces at work on an expanding and changing world, a world from which they were intentionally hiding.

But when America came and insisted upon opening commerce and communication with Korea's next door neighbor, Japan, Korea too felt the pangs of awakening from the centuries of calm and seclusion.

Into this challenging new situation came the young **Rev. George Heber Jones.** He had been a member of the St. John's River Methodist Conference. He was one of the pioneers in our Methodist Mission in Korea.

GENTLEMEN OF OLD KOREA

During Doctor Jones's first years in Korea, he lived in Seoul, the capital, a walled city of 250,000 people. Here he studied the language and helped develop the Western educational institute which the Korean king named "Pai Chai." After a brief furlough in America, Doctor and Mrs. Jones were appointed by the Korea Mission to open a new mission station in Chemulpo, a seaport some twenty-six miles away. This was a hard field and a virgin territory, but one full of challenges, handicaps and hardships. Here, too, was a large Western community much in need of spiritual help. I have heard many beautiful testimonies about the way in which the Jones family helped to mend broken homes and to make life more tolerable for these pioneer merchants and their families.

If properly told, the next ten years of their experience would make a thrilling adventure story. The district included a large territory on the mainland, but it also included scores of deep-sea islands – islands hard to reach in the small native boats, islands dangerous to travel among because of the strong currents and great tides and big storms. Yet here the Joneses gave the next ten years of their lives, traveling, teaching, and building.

A report of the achievements of those first ten years reads like a fairy story. They began with no believers, no churches—nothing but youth, courage, and a love for God and burning desire to tell the Koreans about Christ and His love. Yet at the end of the time, there where there had been no churches, there were now forty-four new churches; where before there were no believers, now they had 2,500 of them; Doctor Jones had trained twenty-two men to serve as local preachers and exhorters; he had developed 109 fine class leaders who

A TYPICAL ISLAND VILLAGE

PLOWING THE RICE FIELDS

each led his own small class of Christians. And Doctor Jones had the unique experience of being the presiding elder of this whole district which he himself had organized and in which every preacher and leader he himself had helped win for Christ. Even more remarkable, he personally had baptized every one of the 2,500 Christians with his own hands.

West of Chemulpo City is a large island named Kangwha. Here in earlier years an American man-of-war had had some skirmishes with Korean soldiers, wherefore foreigners were not allowed on the island under penalty of death. Later, on several occasions Doctor Jones went to Kangwha Island; he disguised himself as a Korean mourner, with his face covered, to keep from being recognized.

His first convert on the island was the mother of the Jones cook. The cook had become a fine Christian, and on one of his visits to his old home, his mother too decided to believe. But the question was, How could she

SAMPAN PLYING BETWEEN DEEP SEA ISLANDS

be baptized? After much careful planning, Doctor Jones left the Chemulpo harbor quietly in a small, open boat during the dark hours of the evening. By moonlight the boat gently neared the shores of the island where the mother and her Christian son were waiting in hiding. The son carried his old mother on his shoulders out to the boat, and by the light of the full moon, Doctor Jones read the baptismal service. After a brief period of worship and prayer, the stranger in the boat departed as secretly as he had come, and Kangwha Island had its first baptized believer. To-day there are over twenty churches on that beautiful, fertile island, and nearly two thousand Christians attend those churches every Sunday morning.

LEFT: CHEMULPO CENT
RIGHT: CORN

NTRAL CHURCH
RNER OF BOYS' SCHOOL

By this time Doctor Jones had become very proficient in the Korean tongue, especially in the usage of the official court language, and in the customs of that large and important group of Korean officials. There are many humorous stories about his understanding of their customs and about the recognition and favors he won from them by his knowledge of their ways.

At one time, a young Korean Christian had been thrown in jail because of persecution, and Doctor Jones went to the magistrate's house to ask his release. But the servants there insisted that the missionary should enter by the smaller gate, which was used only by servants or officials of a grade lower than the magistrate. Doctor Jones was adamant. He insisted that he was the equal of the magistrate, and for nearly an hour the pantomime continued, Doctor Jones standing outside the main gate waiting to be admitted like an equal of the official, and the servants continuing to bow and urge Doctor Jones to enter through the smaller gate. When finally the main gate was opened and the young missionary entered, he spoke the court language so well and so surpassed the local magistrate in politeness and dignity that the Korean Christian was released immediately—and it is needless to say that the missionary had gained immeasurably in prestige, respect, and recognition.

Doctor Jones also made a large contribution to mission and Korean literature. He edited the Korean Repository for several years. He was the Korean correspondent for the London Times. He wrote much mission educational literature for the church at home. He compiled and wrote texbooks in Korean on church history, catechisms, hymnbooks, etc. Through these activities he gained an ever widening circle of friends in the homeland.

It was maninly through his efforts that the arrangements were made for allowing Korean immigrants to enter Hawaii. During those three brief years between 1902 and 1905, over eight thousand Koreans, mostly Christians, migrated to Hawaii to work on the sugar plantations, and to become merchants and shopkeepers. From among these, possibly fifteen hundred later left Hawaii and entered the United States, where they helped lay the foundation for the large fruit and vegetable gardening enterprises for which the Sacramento Valley, even the whole Southwestern United States, is now so famous. No one can yet tell what an inestimable good even that short-lived period of migration has done for international good will, and for the Christian church in Korea.

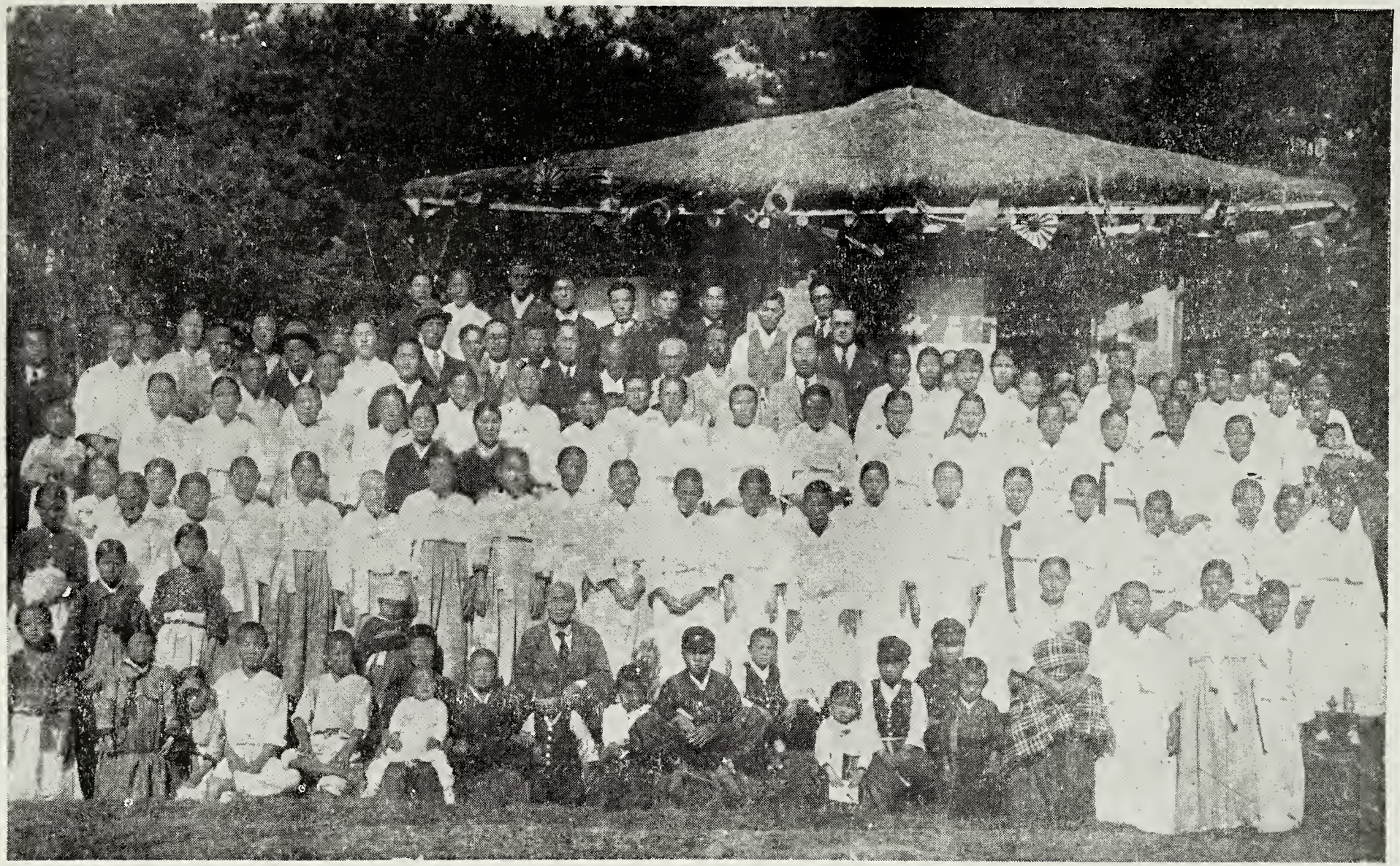
THE LAST SILVERSMITH OF OLD KOREA

SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Food Arranged in Symmetrial Stacks on Low Table

After serving for a time as President of the Seminary in Seoul and as pastor of the First Church and Superintendent of the combined Seoul-Chemulpo Districts, Doctor Jones was also for a time Superintendent of the whole Korea Mission. By this time his ability and influence had become so widely recognized that he was asked to return to serve the church at home in various capacities. During the closing years of his ministry, he was the Editorial Secretary, and then one of the Associate Secretaries, of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. These positions he filled with honor and efficiency until 1919, when he was so abruptly transferred to the Church Triumphant.

Five times he had been presented to the royalty of Korea in recognition of distinguished service for the Korean people. Often he had been honored by his own and by the Korean Church with appointments to places of large responsibility and honor.

KOREAN COUNTRY HOME



VILLAGE CHURCH DEDICATION

Several years ago, Mrs. F. J. Main, the elder of the Joneses' daughters, came with her two sons for a brief visit to her old home in Chemulpo. The old Central Church made it a special memorial day for the Jones family. Dr. Henry Appenzeller, son of another pioneer missionary to Korea, spoke for the missionary group on that occasion. The church was crowded with old Christians, many of whom had traveled far to be there. Mrs. Main and all of us were deeply moved by the many beautiful expressions of love and gratitude. It was a happy day, and one that again assured us of the deep and abiding place that Doctor and Mrs. Jones still hold in the hearts of grateful Korean Christians.

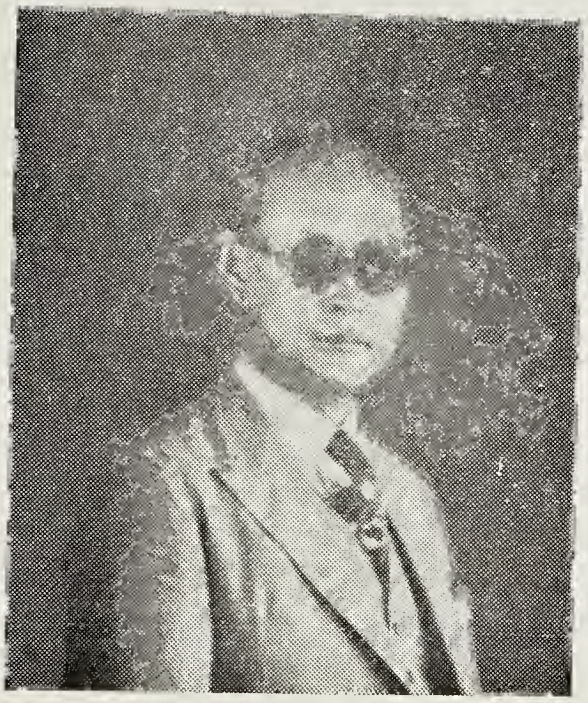
We do not want to forget these pioneer missionaries. They have won a permanent place in the affections of the Korean Christians. We others, too, owe them a debt of gratitude for the wise and sane way in which they have laid the foundation for this young Korean church.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE CONVERTED
TO CHRISTIAN CHURCH, CHEMULPO

GEOMANTIC MASTS

Under the old Korean rulers, the Ship of State was believed to be moored to Heaven by long silk cords that were flying from the top of a long bronse mast anchored between these two old stone pillars.

One near to the heart of Doctor Jones suggested, some time ago, that we build for him a memorial *not* in stone and cement, but one more fitting for him, a living memorial—that we pool our resources and buy enough rice fields to endow one or more Korean evangelistic workers to travel out over the territory where once he worked, for them to continue to preach out there the message of hope and love, to serve the poor, the sick and the uneducated, just as he would do if he were still here. Already some money has been given, some rice fields have been bought. Already income from these rice fields this last year helped two evangelists to hold evangelistic meetings in nearly thirty needy churches, and everywhere they were well received. We cannot supply these poor churches with all the money they need, but the *George Heber Jones Evangelists* can go into these churches with love in their hearts and a song on their lips. These churches are not asking for charity, but for an opportunity.



PASTOR KIM

has given most of his time this last year as a George Heber Jones evangelist. He has visited over twenty-five needy churches, and has consistently brought them help and blessing.

PASTOR KOO

has been able to give only part time for this type of home missionary work, but he has been a worthy representative of Dr. George Heber Jones among the needy churches of this land.

MAR 9 '71

So we thank those of you who have already become permanent partners in this grand enterprise. You other friends who want to join us in making possible this permanent, living memorial to Dr. George Heber Jones may write for further information to

Mrs. G. H. Jones,
1536 Elizabeth Avenue,
Bremerton, Washington, U. S. A.

or

Dr. A. K. Jensen,
34 Teido Cho,
Seoul, Korea.

In building this George Heber Jones Memorial,

$ 10.00	invested in rice-land will support a worker for one day each year.
70.00	invested in rice-land will support a worker for one week each year.
300.00	invested in rice-land will support a worker for one month each year.
1,800.00	invested in rice-land will support a worker for one-half of each year.
3,600.00	invested in rice-land will endow another full time evangelist.

Personal checks are accepted by our banks here in Korea.